Head Quarters Boston Mar. 17. 1778

Sir

The General Assembly of the State of Massa-
-chusetts Bay having by their Resolve of the 13th. Instant
expressed their apprehensions that there is great reason
to suspect that some considerable part of the Troops of
the Convention have by some means supplied themselves
with fire arms, and that there is a necessity that the
matter should be immediately examined into, and such
measures formed as may secure the safety of the State
in that respect.

In order therefore that the request of the General
Assembly may be carried into execution you will
please to morrow at Ten O'Clock A.M. to
make a strict search in all the Barracks occupied
by the British & Foreign Troops on Prospect & Winter
Hills. If any Fire[illegible] belonging to the Officers
should be found in any of the Barracks they are
not to be taken away. The Officers name and Rank
to whom they belong & the Barrack & Room where
they are found are to be taken down in writing.

But

But if any muskets are found in the Barracks with the private men they are to be taken into custody and a receipt given to the person who claims them, and a fair entry made of the person's name & arms in a Book.

You will please to conduct this matter with great propriety and good order. No insult or abuse is to be offered. The Guards are to behave in a Soldierlike ~~Manner~~ manner. You will order the whole Garrison to be under Arms on their Parades and to remain until the search is over. You will keep the matter a profound Secret until you have made your dispositions for the search, you will then wait on General Burgoyne and acquaint him with your orders and then proceed and make your search. The search is to be carefully made in the Barracks and such places as are most likely to have Arms concealed, but you are not to search the Baggage. For all which this shall be your sufficient Warrant

W Heath M G

Lt Col. Keith. D A G

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Townsend
May 26. 1900
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Lt. Col. Keith's Warr.
to Search y Barracks
March 17. 1778

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